



## Nellim Christmas Aurora Adventure



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group  
**VISITING:** Finland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 1907  
**DURATION:** 7 nights

### In Brief

Nellim epitomises the unspoilt wilderness of Lapland and is an ideal location for an exciting, festive family adventure. Spending Christmas in the heart of The Aurora Zone, families will make the most of the incredible landscape by enjoying wilderness activities, husky safaris, reindeer encounters, snowmobiling and some serious Northern Lights hunting.

### Our Opinion

“ We know that once children get to a certain age they don't have the same sense of excitement about Father Christmas that they do when they're little. Despite this, we know that children of all ages love Christmas and the joy it brings. Spending Christmas in the wilds of Lapland surrounded by snow-covered fells and frozen lakes is sure to be a treasured memory for years to come. With an exciting array of activities, including snowmobiling, snowshoeing, husky sledding as well as some spectacular Aurora hunts, adults and children alike are sure to have a fabulous family holiday. ”

Ali Mclean



## What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Ivalo (via Helsinki). Flight routes subject to change
- **Transfers:** Return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights hotel accommodation in double/twin room
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- **The following activities are included:** Snowmobile safari, cross-country skiing, husky safari, Northern Lights workshop, Aurora Camp, wilderness day, minibus/car Northern Lights hunt, snowshoeing and reindeer visit **(order subject to change)**
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners
- Aurora alert until approximately 1 am

## Trip Overview

In our opinion, Nellim encapsulates the genuinely unspoilt wilderness of Lapland which, when combined with the warm, welcoming family atmosphere at the hotel, creates a fabulous location in which to spend a very memorable Christmas. This holiday is all about celebrating the festive season together, trying some unique Arctic experiences and creating unforgettable family memories.

You are well away from the commercial Santa crowds that descend on some areas of Lapland at this time of year and at Nellim you can really experience the winter wonderland which is above the Arctic Circle. Throughout this holiday you will enjoy the thrill of a dog sled safari, the exhilaration of snowmobiling, you shall meet with reindeer and learn about winter wilderness survival.

The hotel is also ideally situated within the Aurora Zone and has been a real favourite with Aurora hunting families for years. Many people in the Activities Abroad team saw the Northern Lights for the first time here, and have since taken their own families back to share in the experience. We have included dedicated Northern Lights hunts on two nights during this holiday and our expert local guides will really help you to maximise your chances of seeing a display.

This itinerary has been designed to suit older children (8 years and above, see terms for details) so if your children want to experience Lapland but, are a little too old for a holiday centred on Father Christmas, then this trip is a perfect choice.

Please note that the order of activities within your itinerary is subject to change and the agenda below should be used as a guide only. The exact order of your agenda will be confirmed upon arrival at the hotel.



Image credits: Markku Inkila, Tricia Cox, Claire Howarth, Anthony Oberlin

## Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change



After being greeted at the airport, you will be transferred to Nellim Wilderness Hotel.

You can check in to your accommodation before enjoying dinner in the hotel's restaurant. You'll need a good night's sleep tonight ahead of tomorrow's adventures.

Please note that the order of activities within your itinerary is subject to change and the agenda below should be used as a guide only. The exact order of your agenda will be confirmed upon arrival at the hotel.

\*Transfers are based on a scheduled group shuttle that sometimes stops at a few nearby hotels. If you would prefer to upgrade to private taxi transfers please ask our Travel Experts for a quotation.

**Included Meals:** Dinner



By now you will be desperate to get out and about in the winter wonderland around the hotel and so today you'll head out on a snowmobile safari to see just how much fun you can have on the snow.

Snowmobiles are a thrill for all the family and a great way to explore further afield, as they allow you to really get a sense of just how big this wilderness is. This adventure lasts around two hours and will lead you all across frozen lakes and amongst the forests and fells. You can soak up the surroundings

and look out for roaming reindeer.

Full instructions and a safety briefing will be provided and adults will set off travelling two people per snowmobile, with children tucked up warmly in a sled behind the guide's machine. You must have a full driving licence and be over 18 to drive a snowmobile in Finland.

Once back at the hotel you will take part in a Northern Lights workshop so you have some background knowledge on this natural wonder and some helpful hints will be provided by your Aurora expert guides.

Then, following dinner, everyone heads to an Aurora Camp. Travelling in a sled pulled by your guide's snowmobile you will make your way to an Aurora viewpoint. A warming fire will be lit and everyone can enjoy hot drinks as you cast your eyes towards the night sky to await a potential Aurora. You will be out for approximately two and a half hours.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
3

DAY IN THE WILDERNESS AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT BY MINIBUS OR CAR

Today your family will get to experience what life in a wilderness environment is really like. There will be a great range of activities included throughout the day, with one of the main highlights being the wilderness skills session where you will learn how to build a fire and how to design and construct an igloo. Your guide will also teach you the ancient art of ice fishing and if you are lucky enough to land a catch then you might be able to taste it for lunch, which will be cooked on an open fire and the whole group will get involved with the cooking. A simple meal such as this is such a wonderful introduction to the Great Outdoors and a real Lappish experience for families. In total, you will be out for approximately four hours.

The fun isn't over just yet as following dinner at the hotel, you will be out hunting the Northern Lights with your Aurora guide. Using their knowledge, experience and the latest forecasts, your guide will drive you via minibus or car to a prime viewpoint where your efforts will hopefully be rewarded with a display. One of the most successful spots is Paatsjoki Bridge, where you can look out at the flowing river below. You will be out for approximately three hours tonight.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
4

SNOWSHOES

You will by now have noticed that it can be quite hard to walk in the deep snow (trial and error normally means you get stuck up to your knees at some point during your stay), snowshoes make life much easier! After instruction and a little practice, you can explore areas of the forests that are generally inaccessible in any other way. With your guide leading the way you will explore the forests and fell area around the hotel and hopefully get to see some of the local flora and fauna at close quarters as you guide points out animal tracks and points of interest to the group. You will be out for approximately two hours.

This afternoon is free for you to relax, have some fun on a sledging slope or possibly enjoy the hotel sauna.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
5

## CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND HUSKY SAFARI

Cross-country skiing is a national pastime in Finland with children strapping on skis as soon as they can walk! Today it is your chance to take to the trails and after a skiing lesson, you will be able to try out this sport for yourselves. You don't need any previous experience of any form of skiing as full tuition will be provided (a bit of balance can be an advantage, however!). You will be out for approximately two hours.

Your next activity is a firm favourite with families as you head to the kennels to meet with the excited huskies ahead of your dog sled safari. This is sure to be a true highlight and after instruction on how to handle your team, everyone will take to the trails with their own teams of dogs. Guests will travel two adults per sled and take it in turns to drive, children will typically travel in large sleds which are controlled by the guide, older children may be able to try driving a sled but this is entirely at the guide's discretion on the day. In total, you will be out for approximately two hours, with the safari itself lasting around one and a half hours.

This is one of those unforgettable experiences, so be sure to take as many family pictures as possible!

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
6

## REINDEER FARM AND CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Christmas is celebrated in Finland on the 24th December and so today will be filled with festive cheer and activities.

No visit to Lapland is complete without the chance to see some reindeer up close.

Today you will meet some furry locals and learn all about these lovely animals. Reindeer are synonymous with the culture here in Northern Finland and herding is still of the utmost importance to the economy here. During your time here you will have the chance to get up close to some of the reindeer herd and of course, take plenty of photographs of these fascinating animals. You will be out for approximately two hours.

Tonight the festivities get underway with a delicious Christmas dinner and celebrations. We thoroughly recommend heading down to one of the two nearby lakes after dinner to search the skies for the Northern Lights.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
7

FREE DAY

Today you may spend your last full day in Finland as a family and tailor your final activities to suit your own family. You can relax; simply enjoying each other's company or spending some time in the sauna or around a campfire. Alternatively, you can hire snowshoes or cross-country skis for some independent exploration or you can also arrange additional activities (please speak to one of our Travel Experts for further information).

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY  
8

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, it is sadly time to head home and you will have to wave goodbye to Nellim as you are transferred back to the airport for your return flights home.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Personalise this tour

### Our pick



### Spend the night in an Aurora Bubble

A wonderful addition to your family holiday, spending the night in an Aurora Bubble offers the chance for a unique and memorable night's sleep, as you lie back in bed and gaze directly up into the pitch-black Arctic sky.

Each Bubble consists of a wooden base, with a large north-facing dome window over the bed. There is also a small toilet too. They are heated and decked out with cosy furnishings, ensuring a warm night's sleep. Of course, you may not want to sleep much, choosing instead to keep a close watch on the sky!

The Aurora Bubbles are situated a short walk from the hotel amongst the trees. They have no running water but if you upgrade to spend the night in a Bubble then you will also keep your hotel room so

facilities are within easy reach. Please note that the beds in the Bubbles are double beds so can only accommodate two people.

Whilst we can't guarantee the Northern Lights, this remains a genuinely memorable and fun experience for your family!

Image credit: Markku Inkila

## Other options

### SPECIAL NIGHTS



## Sleep in an Aurora Kota

Nellim is renowned as an Aurora viewing destination and so the hotel has created a selection of Aurora Kotas for guests to enjoy.

These part-cabin and part-glass tepee buildings are self-contained and situated a short distance from the hotel. The idea is that you can hopefully watch the Northern Lights from the comfort of the bed.

The Kotas are all 25m<sup>2</sup> with their own private sauna, double bed and en-suite bathroom. There is also room for two extra beds for children.

**Please note:** prices are based on you spending the first or last night of your holiday in this unique accommodation and not keeping your original accommodation. If you would like to do this on any other night during your holiday you will need to keep your accommodation and supplements will apply. Please contact our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credit: Anthony Oberlin

## Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Wilderness Hotel Nellim (Nights: 1-7)



The rather lovely Wilderness Hotel Nellim is a small family-run hotel, owned and run by Jouko and Mari Lappalainen and their family.

The building was once a village school but has been wonderfully restored and decorated in a warm and welcoming style to offer a laid-back and inviting atmosphere for visiting families.

The hotel has three main accommodation buildings surrounding a central courtyard. In the main building, you will find the majority of the rooms, the bar and restaurant, sauna and cosy lounge area. The two additional buildings are only around 50m from the main building and contain apartments and more hotel rooms.

## Hotel facilities

- The focal point of the main building is the restaurant area which offers a cosy dining area and a bar with seating for up to 120 people. Your meals here will be served buffet-style and the food is hearty and wholesome with both traditional Finnish and international food to enjoy
- There are tea and coffee facilities available in the restaurant for guests to access during their stay and if you are situated in one of the buildings outside the main one there are tea and coffee stations available too
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the main hotel reception area
- There is one sauna for guest use, which you can book per room for private hire

## Room types

**Double or twin rooms:** The hotel has 34 rooms in total which can be made up as either a double or a twin. These are all decorated in traditional Finnish décor and offer a warm and comfortable base. All are en-suite with shower room and hairdryer.

## Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.



## Wilderness Hotel Nellim - Arctic Suites



During your stay at Nellim, a popular option for families is to upgrade to one of the cosy and comfortable Arctic Suites. Situated in one of the annexe buildings they are across a small courtyard from the main building and restaurant. The Arctic Suites are a great option if you have a larger family or would like additional room and space to relax in after a day's Arctic adventures.

The suites vary in size and in the facilities that they offer and are booked on a first-come, first-served basis according to the needs of your party.

### Arctic Suite facilities

- There are one or two-bedroom options available which are equipped with living area, bathroom (with shower and hairdryer), small kitchenette and/or electric kettle and TV. We would recommend taking a supply of your preferred tea and coffee to provide hot drinks during your stay
- Some of the suites have a private sauna. We can request these particular facilities for your family but can't guarantee them
- Families staying in the suites will enjoy their meals in the main restaurant, a short walk away

**Supplements and minimum numbers may apply:** please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a quotation

Please note these images display a range of the different types of suites.

## Wilderness Hotel Nellim - Cabins



Nellim offers a variety of cabins which offer varying facilities and which are mainly within easy walking distance of the hotel. Cabins are allocated on a first come, first served basis, according to the accommodation which most suits your party and availability. Specific facilities cannot be guaranteed. Our travel experts will be able to recommend the most suitable option for your family. Please note that the cabins are subject to supplement and are available on request only.

## Cabin facilities

- The cabins sleep between 4 – 6 people and are configured in a variety of ways. Some feature mezzanine sleeping areas and others are single-floor and open plan with a double bed and sofa bed option
- The standard cosy cabins are studio in style and offer a double bed, pull-out sofa bed, a small kitchenette (with kettle and coffee maker – so you may want to take your favourite hot drinks), a shower room (with hair dryer), an en-suite toilet, a fireplace and a private sauna
- A large lakeside cabin can be requested for larger groups, but this is a few kilometres from the hotel and so transfers are provided for meals and activities
- Two larger log cabins situated close to the hotel are available on request, however, these require a minimum of 4 people and sleep up to 8

**Supplements apply:** please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a quotation

Please note these images display a range of the different types of cabins.

## Wilderness Hotel Nellim – Log Suite upgrade



Located between 30 – 70 metres from the main building these log suites are designed to be the highest standard of accommodation Nellim offer. The suites are approximately 33m<sup>2</sup> allowing plenty of space for families to relax in comfort. They are ideal for larger families or for those looking to have a bit more space during their stay.

There are four suites in each of the separate log buildings offering families a high level of comfort during their stay at Nellim.

## Suite facilities

- All suites have their own private sauna, electric kettle and mini-fridge to make your stay as comfortable as possible
- The suites have a double bed downstairs as part of the open plan layout and a mezzanine level above which sleeps up to three more people
- All meals will be served in the hotel restaurant which is just a short walk from the suites

**Supplements apply:** please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a quotation

## The Specifics

### Holiday group size (approximate)

This holiday requires a minimum of 4 people to run, however, we require a minimum of 8 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 28 people (approximately). Please speak to our Travel Experts for further information.

## Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to

be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

## Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our booking conditions.

## Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

## Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

## Payment and Cancellation terms - Nellim

Please note that the following cancellation terms supersede in part those mentioned in section 7 of our general booking terms and conditions.

If you are travelling between, and including, the dates of 17.12-08.01, the following cancellation terms apply:

- Prior to 28.09 – Loss of deposit (including the full cost of the flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)
- 29.09 up until departure date – 100%

For all other travel dates that do not include 17.12-08.01, the following cancellation terms apply:

- More than 63 days prior to departure - Loss of deposit (including the full cost of flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)
- 63 to 45 days prior to departure - 40%
- 44 to 31 days prior to departure - 60%
- 30 to 16 days prior to departure - 80%
- 15 or less days - 100%

## Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.activitiesabroad.com/booking-conditions>